


 ARMY AND NAVY  
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION


"WITH THE COLORS"

Tues. Sept. 11, 1917

Dear Marie,

The fudge and proofs  
 came OK. Say you sure  
 had good luck with that  
 batch! It was the real stuff  
 and tasted great. Thank-ee,  
 come again. I did not like  
 the pictures very well. The  
 expression on your face is  
 too sober for the bright-eyed  
 little girl that I left. Your  
 hair looks fine, I think.

In another envelope, I am  
 sending some fun pictures.  
 This sure is some good work.  
 I am going to develop

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my films myself after this  
and send them home to  
get the prints. I was pretty  
disappointed in the one of  
George & I. He has my  
camera case on his shoulder  
& is operating the heliograph  
key. We expect to get  
paid any day now but  
there are lots of things  
we expect, that we don't get.  
I got something that  
I didn't expect this  
morning. We were grooming  
the horses out on the picket  
chain, and I got a wild one.  
The first sergeant, O'Brien,  
warned me to watch his  
front feet and I was very  
careful and got one side  
all brushed up fine, with


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only a few false motions  
 on the part of the horse.  
 Then Captain Mitchum  
 came and said he wanted  
 the names of all expert  
 and amateur photographers.  
 I left the horse and went  
 over to sign up. When  
 I came back, I stepped  
 up to the front of my horse  
 and just as I got within  
 four or five feet of him, a  
 fellow spoke to me and  
 I turned a little to answer.  
 The next thing I knew,  
 I felt something like

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a good healthy brick  
on my jaw and I hit  
the ~~foot~~ like a rock.  
A couple fellows picked  
me up and took me over  
to the hose and washed  
the blood and dirt away.  
My shirt was torn in strips  
from my shoulder half  
way down my right  
side. I went down to  
the hospital and had  
the cuts on my jaw dressed  
and then hit off for the barracks.  
I didn't miss a single  
drill period although my  
jaw was a little stiff and  
I had a slight headache.  
Another fellow was  
laid low by the same  
horse, and now no one



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but Sergeant Gillespie is allowed to groom him. I don't see how the army can use a saddle horse that is wild enough to plunge at a man and knock him down with his front feet, when he ain't even within arms reach of him. I think I got out pretty lucky and am thankful that no blame was placed on me, for being careless. We are learning to saddle and mount our horses

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now. I suppose we will just be learning to ride and then I'll be transferred. Co. A of the 5th Bn. is already having mounted drill but we only have ten saddles for 75 men so only a few of us have even been on one. Each of us will have a horse when we are in the field except the men who drive the horses on the wagon wireless set in my section. It looks pretty neat to see a company of men ride by with each horse in his proper place in the column. When Captain Mitchum called for photographers, I signed up as an



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expert. He said "How many years experience?" I said four. Then he asked if I knew anything about color photography. I answered; "Autochrome and Hess-Ilves process. He looked as if to say "muffed" and put me down as O.K.

Believe me one has to be a perfectly good little bluffer in order to push ahead. I am not anxious to leave this outfit though, but the more varied my experience

B.

the more I will get out of it. I have qualified in wig-wag and all the General Service code stuff such as heliograph & acetylene flash telegraph and can receive and transmit on the buzzer better than some that enlisted as operators. I am going to try to qualify in semaphore next Thursday but it will be by a close shave if I make it. The fifth section was out for 45 minutes last night after supper practicing semaphore. We sure are busy all the time. One day we spent half



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the afternoon heaving  
rock. This morning the  
second section was detailed  
to shovel about five ton of  
coal into the basement.  
Once more, it's a gay life.  
Well I must wash the  
stains out of some hand-  
kerchiefs so I can return  
them to the fellows in the  
morning so will have to  
quit. I will write as often  
as I can because I really  
like to write to you and  
I want you to write

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as much as you can, though  
I know you, too, will be  
pretty busy now.

Don't let those dreams  
bother you. My heart is  
too full of good warm  
love for you to allow  
the slightest thought  
of coldness. Well good  
night little girlie. Gee,  
I wish I could say that  
in front of your house. But  
it won't be long. When  
I watched the Officers Reserve  
training at bayonet fighting,  
I couldn't help but feel  
that Uncle Sam is going  
to hand the Dutch a  
prize package.

Yours,  
Forrest.



LEAVENWORTH

SEP 11

11-30

KANS.



Miss Anna Marie Shaw  
389 Highland Ave.  
Beloit, Wis.

If not delivered in Ten days return to

Forrest W. Bassett

Co A-6th F.Bn. S.C.

Fort Leavenworth

Kansas

**ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF**  
**YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS**  
**(IN THE FIELD)**

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